

EL PASO MAY BECOME A GREAT OIL CENTER

PLANS FOR NEW BUILDING ON CORNER OF MILL AND OREGON STS. WILL BE DISPLAYED

Mills's Skyscraper to Be the Largest Reinforced Concrete Building in Country.

WILL HAVE MANY GRACEFUL CURVES

Twelve stories high with 285 offices, eight store rooms; a marble lobby with a battery of three electric elevators pouring their load of human freight into it, and with a restaurant and rathskeller in the basement, the new Anson Mills building which is to have the place of honor on the twin plazas will be the largest and most complete office building in the United States constructed entirely of reinforced concrete.

The plans, specifications and elevation in water colors of the new building have been completed by Frost & Trost, the architects, who have the planning of the big building in charge and the contractors are now figuring on the specifications. The contract for the skyscraper will be let during the first week of May, and Gen. Anson Mills, the grand old man of early El Paso, will be present to personally inspect the bids for the building which is to bear his distinguished name.

Fronting on two plazas, two of the leading business streets, one of which was named in honor of Gen. Mills, the new Anson Mills building will be admirably located for the proper display of the fine architectural lines which will make it one of the most beautiful as well as the largest concrete office building in the country. Having an easy curve instead of a sharp corner at the intersection of Mills and Oregon streets, the entire building will represent graceful sweeping lines. Extending over the two main entrances on Mills and Oregon street, will be two porches with concrete columns supporting massive cornices and roofs. On the fronts of these porches will appear the name "Mills" while on the curve of the building at the fourth floor, will be the name of the structure "Anson Mills." Stationary awnings will shade the store fronts on both streets and these fronts will be of heavy copper, plate and prism glass with oak, used exclusively in the window trimmings.

The lobby will be of Italian Paros marble to the ceiling. The elevator fronts will be of bronze and will open into the lobby. Two marble stairways will lead from the lobby to the basement and one to the second floor. From the second to the 12th floors the stairway will be of concrete with marble treads and railings. The store fronts of the building on both streets will also be covered with marble. There will be eight of these store fronts, six on Oregon street and two on Mills street all facing the two plazas.

On the third floor of the building there will be French windows opening onto the top of the porches and on the fifth floor there will be a balcony supported by two ornamental brackets. On the 11th floor there will be a balcony extending around the two street fronts. This will also be supported by ornamental brackets, and the cornice will be heavily ornamental to be in keeping with the general character of the building.

An arched entrance at the north and west ends of the building will open into private alleys through which access to the rear of the building will be obtained. These alleys will extend only as high as the first floor and will be a part of the building proper.

The finish throughout the building will be mahogany with maple floors in the off storerooms and concrete floors on all of the offices. The windows on the east and south will be plate glass while those on the north and west will be of wire glass set in metal frames.

The basement will extend under the sidewalk on both of the streets and also under the alley in the rear.



REASON
"Why are you looking so sad, dear father?"
"I am thinking of a joke to put under this picture I have just drawn, my dear."

TO REBUILD THE SHELDON SHORTLY

Arrangements Are Now Under Way—Lower Floor Is All Leased.

The Orndorff Hotel company is the title of the new company which is to take over the Orndorff and new Sheldon hotels and operate them as soon as the present Sheldon is remodeled.

The president of the company is Charles DeGroff, and Burt Orndorff is to be the manager of the new company and will also have the active management of the new Sheldon as well as the general control of the Orndorff, for which a manager is to be secured.

It is expected to have the new Sheldon ready to occupy before Christmas, refurnished with new furnishings throughout.

The most of the Sheldon block surrounding the hotel proper, has already been leased, and there are a number of applicants for the remaining rooms in the building.

The El Paso Bank and Trust company will take the northeast corner extending back 60 feet, and will have an entrance on the corner of Oregon and the new Mills streets. Rob A. Moore has released his present store room, as have Kelly & Pollard. The Texas & Pacific is planning to take the room now occupied by the Rock Island city office.

Work on the new Sheldon will begin as soon as J. W. Fisher's lease expires, in August.

EL PASO'S PROGRESS NOTED BY EDITOR

Fewel Building on El Paso and San Antonio Streets, Occasions Comment.

Don Kedzie has the El Paso boosting fever. Over Lonsburg way the right honorable Don is editing the Western Liberal for all he is worth, which is going some even for editors, and has broken into song about Maj. Bill Fewel building on the El Paso street corner.

Don Kedzie's plaint runs thus:

Maj. Bill Fewel is preparing to erect on the Fashion corner, at the corner of El Paso and San Antonio streets, in El Paso, an eight story structure. The building will be a broad platform, and is to be used as a landing place for the flying machines. As it is necessary to have this landing place higher than the top of any other building the major has arranged his plans so that he can keep building it up higher, if other buildings are made high enough to interfere with the machines. The interior of the building will be devoted exclusively to elevators to carry the people from the ground to the landing station, and depots to carry the people from the landing station to the surface of the earth, where they will be given a transfer ticket, and can connect with the street cars.

TEXAS STREET STORE ADDS IMPROVEMENTS

Realty Office Is Fitted For Jewelry Establishment in the Hammett Building.

The front of the Hammett building on the corner of Texas street and Mesa avenue is being torn out and will be replaced by a hardwood and plate glass front. The entire corner room, including the room formerly occupied by the Loomis Bros. realty office will be converted into a jewelry and diamond store by Silberberg Bros., who will move into it as soon as it is completed. Loomis Bros., who have temporary quarters on the corner of Stanton and Mills street will occupy the room in the First National bank building now occupied by Silberberg Bros.

SAFE PROPOSITION



SAFE PROPOSITION
"But supposing father should lose his fortune? Would you marry me then?"
"Why, certainly. A man like your father could easily make another fortune."

Removal Sale begins Monday.
Snyder Jewelry Co., 208 Texas.

EL PASO MAN BUYS A BIG RANCH

L. E. Booker Takes Over the Hacienda de Torreon and Pays About 650,000 Pesos.

RUNS ALONG A CHIHUAHUA RIVER

Chihuahua, Mexico, April 30.—This week saw closed the deal for the purchase of the 190,000 acre ranch known as the Hacienda de Torreon at Galeana in the district of Galeana, this state. The deal was made by J. P. Robertson, of El Paso, representing L. E. Booker, of the same place.

The purchase price is not made public, but is supposed to be in the neighborhood of 650,000 pesos, as the ranch is one of the best in the state, and extends up and down the Sta. Maria river for 20 miles, about a mile on each side of the stream.

It surrounds the town of Galeana. There are many springs on the property and considerable of the land is under irrigation.

The ranch was formerly part of the Enrique Miller estate, but had passed to E. C. Douglas, Manuel Gameros and Augustin Dominguez, all of Chihuahua, and it was with them Mr. Robertson made the deal.

CLYDE HOMES TO BUILD DYE PLACE

Purchases the Property and Will Erect Own Building on Texas Street.

Forced to vacate his present quarters in order that the building may be torn down to make a park in the downtown district, Clyde Holmes has purchased the lots on the corner of Texas and Octavia street, where he will erect a reinforced concrete fireproof cleaning establishment this summer.

The building will front on Texas street and will be built of a sufficiently heavy foundation and first floor to permit a second story to be added when the business demands it.

Mr. Holmes will leave soon for the east to inspect the cleaning establishments in Chicago, New York and other cities, and will incorporate a number of new ideas in his new plant, including a machine for pressing suits by steam and gas. Work will begin on the new structure as soon as the plans can be drawn.

Mr. Holmes has been given 90 days' notice to vacate the Mesa avenue location.

KOPF BUILDING IS BEING REBUILT OF CREAM BRICK

A cream brick front with a native copper balcony is what the visitors will see at the head of West San Antonio street, when the new street is opened and in use as the main thoroughfare to the union station.

The Kopf building, on the east side of El Paso street, has a new front of cream colored pressed brick, surmounted by a gallery covered with copper and with an art metal railing around it. This building faces the new street opening and will be seen from the lower end of the new business street when it is opened up and widened through to the Santa Fe reservation.

FEWEL TO BEGIN WORK ON MAY 20

Cannot Get Possession of His Property Before That Time.

Maj. Fewel cannot begin work on his new Fewel building until May 20, when the leases on his El Paso street buildings expire. The major expected to get possession of these buildings by May 1, but the tenants were unable to find other quarters in time to move by Monday, so they decided to stay until their leases expire. After that, Maj. Fewel says he is going to make an awful mess around the San Antonio-El Paso street corner getting those old buildings out of the way for his new Fewel building, with a life saving station on every floor.

CONTRACTS FOR APARTMENT HOUSE

West Missouri Street Will Have Another—W. W. Follett the Builder.

W. W. Follett has let the contract for his apartment house, which is to be erected on West Missouri street, to the Turberville Construction company for \$10,000. This is one of the new apartment buildings which will make West Missouri known as the apartment street of El Paso. It will be 35 by 60 feet in size; will have four apartments of four rooms each, and have the most modern apartment building conveniences.

GRADING ENDED ON ROAD TO FABENS

Contract for Asphalt Work Ready for Bidders—"To Fabens on Asphalt."

The grading work on the Clint-Fabens road has been completed by the county and the road, which is to be an extension of the county road when it is completed, will be ready for the rock and asphalt finish. The contract will be awarded next week for this part of the work and it will be possible to go from El Paso to Fabens without getting off of the asphalt road as soon as this link in the chain of good roads is completed.

WALZ PLANS NEW STORE BUILDING

Will Add Story to Present Structure—W. B. McCoy to Conduct Hotel.

W. G. Walz says he is going to start to work rebuilding his store building as soon as he can get the necessary papers signed. The building will be four stories high, one story more than the present building. The three upper floors will be occupied by W. B. McCoy who will reopen the Grand Central hotel as the new Grand Central. The first floor will be occupied by Mr. Walz as a curio and music store.

WORK ON RECKHART BUILDING STARTED

The basement wall of the Reckhart flatiron building on San Francisco has been started and the two story glass front building will be ready for occupancy by fall. The flatiron will be built of brick and will be two stories high for the present, but will be made higher later.

CONTRACTORS FINISHING LINDEN APARTMENTS

Ponsford Bros. now have the Linden apartment house under roof and are putting in the inside finish 30 days ahead of time. The building will be turned over to the owners at least that length of time ahead of the time specified in the contract.

MUCH ACTIVITY IN THE UPPER VALLEY

Numerous Sales Have Been Made of Late in the Vicinity of La Union—Bailey and Bailey Will Put in Large Acreage in Cultivation in Short Time—Wheat Growing Popular.

Things are up and doing in the La Union district of the Mesilla valley. Land has been changing ownership there with the rapidity of horse deals at a county fair, and a number of new ranchers have invested in the upper valley property.

Fred W. Freeman, of El Paso, has bought 172 acres in the La Union district near Canutillo, paying \$50 per acre for the land.

Dr. C. J. Gray, of San Antonio, has also purchased a tract of 75 acres in the district, and T. J. Hall, of Deming, has acquired 204 acres, paying \$50 for the land, which is under ditch, but is not under cultivation.

Sam Gitman has bought 30 acres in the La Union section of the valley.

Most of this land is to be put into alfalfa cultivation at once, and the lower Mesilla valley is expected to be in

the same state of cultivation as the Las Cruces section within the present year. P. H. and H. H. Bailey have bought 325 acres of the La Union land near the Canutillo bridge from John Raynolds, paying \$15.75. The land is to be put under cultivation and the contract for the sale requires that it shall be in cultivation within two years.

Wheat growing is becoming a strong rival to alfalfa as the staple industry of the upper valley. There are more than 2000 acres in wheat planted in the lower Mesilla valley this year, according to H. H. Bailey, who owns a large amount of land in the La Union districts.

The demand for wheat, which was created by the construction of the Globe Mills in El Paso, is given as the cause for the increase in the acreage of wheat and more of the cereal is expected to be planted next season.

EL PASO CONCRETE MEN ARE BREAKING RECORDS

Sorenson & Morgan are going after the concrete building record of El Paso.

The contractors who are now erecting the new Roberts-Banner building on the plaza, say that they will have the building finished at least three weeks ahead of the time specified in the contract, which required the building to be completed by Aug. 1.

A record was established for the third floor, which has just been poured. But six days were required to put the entire floor in place, including the column and supports, the time required for pouring the third floor proper being but 21 hours, the concrete crew starting to work pouring at 5 a. m. Wednesday and finishing at 2 a. m. Thursday.

This is better than was done in San Francisco during the rush of rebuilding which followed the earthquake, the contractors say.

BUILDING PERMITS NET BIG INCREASE

May Record, However Expected to Surpass Month Just Ending.

April ended with an exceedingly good record for building improvements, 76 permits being issued during the month for structures to cost \$139,072. Of this amount, seven permits were issued for buildings valued at \$119,250, which shows an increase over the previous week of \$103,202.

The real estate transfers recorded during the past week totaled \$53,505, which show a decrease of \$132,377 over the previous week, though during that period one deal alone was for \$150,000, being the sale of a morning newspaper.

Several large permits will be issued during the month of May, and it is considered probable that the month will show a total larger than any previous month in the city's history, for the Mills building is still to come in and several other structures will be erected.

POPULAR ENLARGES ON BIG SCOPE

Will Have a Rest Room on the Second Floor of the Building.

Forced to expand to accommodate its growing business, the Popular Dry Goods company is building a second story on the rear of its store in the Masonic temple building, and is also having the partitions taken out of the second story of the temple to make room for the ready to wear and millinery departments.

The one story building in the rear of the Popular, which was formerly used by the Watson Grocery company and later as a part of the Popular, is being rebuilt and a second story will be added and a rest room and reading room installed on the second floor to connect with the departments which are to be moved from the first to the second floor of the building.

The room in the rear is 60x45 and will add 2700 feet to the floor space on the second floor of the building.

An elevator will be installed in the center of the store to carry passengers to the second floor departments and rest rooms.

MAKES MONEY ON WRECKED BUILDING

Purchaser of Mills Building Disposing of "Junk" to Advantage.

Paying \$2500 for the building as it stood, Edward Sidebotham is due to make a nice little investment out of his purchase of the old Mills building, which he is now wrecking.

This was exclusive of the heating plant, which was removed from the basement by Gen. Mills's agent here before the work of wrecking the building began. The plate glass in the front brought the contractor \$400, the Bedford stone columns on the Mills street side brought \$150, and a number of these yet remain to be sold on the Oregon street front.

The steel beams in the building, as well as other steel work, has been sold to the foundry, and the brick has been disposed of for backing in new brick buildings and walls. Not only have the heavier materials sold at a good price, but the lumber is being shipped to New Mexico to build a hotel at Columbus and to Cloudcroft to make cottages for the summer resorters.

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INDICATIONS FINE NORTH OF HERE

Camp City Still Attracting People From Everywhere; All Have Faith.

INDICATIONS OF OIL ALL AROUND

Driller of Well Says Indications Are Same as in All Big Southern Fields.

Camp City, N. M., April 30.—That the indications beneath the surface at this point are identical with those in every big oil field where he has ever sunk is the declaration of Capt. J. L. Mayo, and he has sunk wells in all the highest fields of the south.

There are ample indications of oil in the foothills all around here is the declaration of many men who have lived here and had the opportunity of prospecting in the past. These, coupled with what experts from outside think of the proposition, gives those who have filed on land, further hope that the Camp City oil field is going to be one of the greatest in the country.

Frank M. Leland, of Tonopah, Nev., acting for himself and associates in California and Nevada, is exploring all the land and claims he can secure and believes this is going to prove a great oil field.

"Dog Canyon," shouts the porter, and a crowd of "sooners" and capitalists rush and leap off the northbound Rock Island passenger train at "Camp City," scene of the oil excitement.

Instead of a barren desert they see a quarry, mesquite prairie with cozy cottages and picturesque waterfalls all around. From the new depot it is but a mile walk north to the oil derrick about 150 yards to the east of the railway track. The clouds of black smoke from the engine shoot upward above the high derrick, possibly a prophesy of a future burning gusher.

A force of men are busy pumping the material that had filled up the hole and caught the fish tail, drill, which is imprisoned in solid gumbo at a depth of 1245 feet below the surface. Another pipe sunk beside the first one is being lowered to loosen the drill by slushing the gumbo with water forced down by the pump. They have gone down about 150 feet a day, making 170 feet yesterday, and at 8 o'clock last night had attained a depth of 970 feet—leaving only 275 feet more to go to reach the drill bit, which, in drilling accidents, will be in the next 24 hours.

S. B. Camp and H. Whitmore, secretary of the Sacramento Deep Well association, are in charge of the operations.

"Our association," Camp said, "let the contract to Capt. Mayo, who had the drill, but after the drill was stuck we gave him a week to release it, failing in which, we took hold ourselves. We are getting along nicely and will soon be ready to sink below the 1270 feet point."

Whitmore says that four miles northeast of the drill hole is fine oil seepage near San Andres canyon at the base of the Sacramento, which Joe Morgan, the rancher states, burns well. To the west of the hole, the mountains are full of salt springs and gypsum beds. These were the only surface indications.

"Over in that section some Caddo, La. oil people, are getting ready to sink a hole about the same place. They had a rig purchased to bore near them," he says.

"Yesterday a Standard Oil expert, who has been watching us for two days, started out about Alamogordo, prospecting the foothills of the Sacramento, and stated that he would stake out any vacant lands."

John Hunter, also of the Deep Well company, states that there is something strange about the drill becoming stuck. "The Mayos," he says, "after the sinking was stopped, came to the managers of the company and said that if we would convey them the 40 acres in which the drill hole is located, they would not charge for their services already rendered and would furnish the money and guarantee a new well free on some adjoining land. This offer was declined. That night the Mayos and their friends went out and staked off claims all around the cat leaved out that oil had been struck. After three weeks of work, the Mayos had not succeeded in loosening the drill, and there is 700 feet of heavy tubing lost down the hole.

"We began last Friday," said Hunter, "and have gone down 970 feet already. At 570 feet we encountered a cemented material, composed of smelter slag or ballast mixed with the white sand. It was about seven feet thick and extremely hard and was placed there for some purpose; why or by whom, we can't understand. The Mayos said they could not get through it and didn't know what the trouble was and gave it up. Camp put on a nozie reeled to bait such a job and forced it through it and since then we have

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CANADA TO HAVE A NAVY OF HER OWN

Ottawa, Ont., April 30.—To command H. M. S. the Niobe, which will be purchased by the Dominion government to begin the Canadian navy, the admiralty has appointed a Canadian officer. He is commander William B. MacDonald, R. N., a son of senator MacDonald, of British Columbia.

This assignment has been received.

BROWNSVILLE MAN BUYS FARM ABOVE EL PASO.

Brownsville, Texas, is contributing to the prosperity of the Mesilla valley. Jack Coggins, of Brownsville, has purchased 140 acres in the La Union district of the upper valley, and is having it fenced and has let the contract to have the land leveled and put under cultivation for alfalfa.



COMMANDER W. B. MACDONALD

with expressions of pleasure by the press and public. The senior officer of the Canadian naval force will be rear admiral C. E. Kingsmill, R. N., retired, and now the first ship to be commissioned as a part of the dominion's fleet will be under a Canadian officer.

Commander MacDonald entered the Royal navy as a midshipman, serving on H. M. S. the Royal Arthur, when that vessel was flagship of the British

MERE KINDNESS
She—You've seen Cholly's wife, Would you call her pretty?
He—I might if I were talking to Cholly.

Removal Sale, 33-1/2 percent on Cut Glass.
Snyder Jewelry Co., 208 Texas.

EL PASOANS ADOPT BUILDING SLOGAN

"Have a Home in El Paso" is the latest slogan and judging from the building permits which are being issued by the inspector of buildings, the slogan is being carried out in fact. L. F. Clark is building a five room cottage for H. E. Carion on Wyoming street to cost \$2500. Judge T. E. Falvey is erecting a \$6000 home on Los Angeles street, which he will occupy, and J. C. Worthington is building a five room house on Lee street for the Mayfield Realty company, to cost \$4500.

The Lone Star Land company has sold George L. Foreman a five room modern cottage on Newman street for Dr. J. D. Love. Mr. Foreman is connected with the Armour Packing company's plant here and will occupy the cottage as a home. The price paid for it was \$4000.

DEMAND FOR SPACE CAUSES BUILDING

Floor space is at a premium in El Paso even if the new buildings are being built and occupied as rapidly as possible. The H. Lesinsky company is arranging to put a third story on the warehouse and office building on Santa Fe and Main streets. This will give an additional 6500 feet of floor space for warehouse purposes.

George Look, who owns the Vogue building on El Paso street, recently sold 14 feet off of the end of his building to allow west San Antonio street to be wider. Not wishing to limit his store room space Mr. Look has arranged to have a third story put on this building and the work will be done by King Worley.